I Hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Solvice as Express Mail, Airbill No. ER 509322412US, in an envelope addressed of MS Non-Fee Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date shown below.

Docket No.: HO-P02190US1

(PATENT)

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of: Nicholas Thomas et al.

Dated: December 1, 2003 Signature:

Application No.: 10/650,412

Art Unit: N/A

Filed: August 28, 2003

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

For: MICROFABRICATED APPARATUS FOR

**CELL BASED ASSAYS** 

## THIRD PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

MS Non-Fee Amendment Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

## INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

Prior to examination on the merits, please amend the above-identified U.S. patent application as follows:

Amendments to the Abstract begin on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 3 of this paper.